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SUBJECT: SEOUL - PRESS BULLETIN; October 6, 2009

TOP HEADLINES

Chosun Ilbo
Chinese Premier Persuades Kim Jong-il
to "Return to Six-Party Talks"

JoongAng Ilbo
Path of Succession in N. Korea Growing Clearer by the Day; Kim
Jong-il's Third Son, with Name Clarified,
Gets High Position in Party

Dong-a Ilbo
ROKG Official: "Seized N. Korean Containers Had
Chemical Weapons Items"

Hankook Ilbo
Kim Jong-il, Wen Jiabao Discuss Resuming Multilateral Talks
on N. Korea's Nuclear Issue

Hankyoreh Shinmun
Foreign Language High Schools Received Nine Times
More Grants from Education Ministry Last Year
than Ordinary High Schools

Segye Ilbo
Defense Minister: "Seoul Has
List of 100 N. Korean Nuclear Sites"

Seoul Shinmun
President Lee: "Child Sex Offenders
Should Be Isolated from Society"

DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

Defense Minister Kim Tae-young, during yesterday's National Assembly
audit of the Defense Ministry, said that the ROKG has a detailed
list of about 100 sites in North Korea that are related to (the
production of) nuclear weapons. (All)

The Defense Ministry, meanwhile, in a closed-door report to the

National Assembly, said that it has detected personnel and equipment movement in and out of the Punggye-ri nuclear base in North Korea but that there are no indications of a third nuclear test.

(JoongAng)

According to an ROKG source, ROK maritime police seized four containers shipped by North Korea on a Panama-registered freighter last month and found clothes used to protect the body from hazardous chemicals. (Chosun, JoongAng, Hankook, Segye, Seoul)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

According to China's Xinhua News Agency, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao held talks in Pyongyang yesterday with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. (All) During the talks, Wen seems to have persuaded Kim Jong-il to give up his nuclear ambitions and to return to the Six-Party Talks. (Chosun, Dong-a, Segye)

According to North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency, North Korea and China have signed a deal to build a new bridge over the Amrok River bordering the two countries. China is likely to finance the project estimated to cost \$144 million. (All)

MEDIA ANALYSIS

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-N. Korea

Yesterday's talks in Pyongyang between Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and North Korean leader Kim Jong-il received wide press coverage. Citing China's Xinhua News Agency, most media reported that the visiting Chinese premier seems to have persuaded Kim Jong-il to give up his nuclear ambitions and to return to the Six-Party Talks (by emphasizing that cooperation with the international community could help) develop North Korea's shattered economy.

Newspapers carried the following front-and inside-page headlines: "Return to Six-Party Talks? Or Stick to Bilateral Talks with U.S.?" "... All Eyes are on Kim Jong-il" (right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo); "Kim Jong-il Reconfirms Resolution of Nuclear Issue via Multilateral Talks" (Conservative Dong-a Ilbo); "Kim Jong-il, Wen Jiabao Discuss Resuming Multilateral Talks on N. Korea's Nuclear Issue... North's Return to Six-Party Talks Is Not Verified" (moderate Hankook Ilbo); and "Kim, Wen Agree to Resolve Nuclear Issue through Dialogue" (left-leaning Hankyoreh Shinmun)

On a different subject, all media quoted Defense Minister Kim Tae-young as saying during yesterday's National Assembly audit of the Defense Ministry that Seoul has a list of about 100 locations in North Korea that are related to (the production of) nuclear weapons.

Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo further cited the Defense Ministry as saying in a closed-door report to the National Assembly yesterday that it has detected personnel and equipment movement in and out of the Punggye-ri nuclear base in North Hamgyong Province, North Korea, but that there are no indications of a third nuclear test.

JoongAng also front-paged a report entitled "Path of Succession in N. Korea Growing Clearer by the Day." Citing an ROKG report to the ruling party, the JoongAng report said that leader Kim Jong-il's third son and heir apparent, Kim Jong-eun, is working at a deputy director level at the ruling Workers' Party. According to the JoongAng report, the name of the son had previously been spelled "Kim Jong-un," but ROK intelligence recently confirmed the correct spelling to be "Kim Jong-eun." The report went on to claim that Kim Jong-eun's formal succession would take place between 2010 and 2012.

With regard to yesterday's Dong-a Ilbo report about the seizure at Busan New Port last month of four North Korean containers suspected of carrying banned items, most newspapers quoted a senior ROKG official as saying: "The search was carried out in accord with UN

Security Council Resolution 1874 sanctioning North Korea after its second nuclear test in May. Clothes used to protect the body from hazardous chemicals were found in the search."

Conservative Dong-a Ilbo, in a front-page report entitled "Seized N. Korean Containers Had Chemical Weapons," cited an ROKG official as saying: "The items shipped on the Panama-registered freighter fall into (a category of prohibited items outlined by) the Australia Group." According to the Dong-a report, the Australia Group, established in 1984, is an informal forum of 33 countries including the ROK to prevent the production and spread of chemical weapons.

FEATURES

"SEIZED N. KOREAN CONTAINERS HAD CHEMICAL WEAPONS ITEMS"
(Dong-a Ilbo, October 6, 2009, Front page)

By Reporters Shin Seok-ho and Whang Geum-cheon

The ROK's Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan yesterday held a closed-door meeting with lawmakers after an audit by the National Assembly's Unification, Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee. Minister Yu confirmed that the National Intelligence Service and the Korea Coast Guard seized four containers belonging to North Korea at Busan's New Port on September 22.

According to sources who attended the meeting, Minister Yu said,

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"The customs authorities seized the containers aboard a foreign ship and are currently investigating their contents and any connection with North Korea." Minister Yu reportedly noted, however, "We cannot provide the details now, but once the investigation is over, we will disclose the details."

A government official in Seoul, however, said yesterday, "The items shipped on the Panama-registered freighter fall into (a category of prohibited items outlined by) the Australia Group."

The official also denied that the items on the freighter were chemical weapons, saying, "No. They're neither chemical weapons nor materials used in chemical weapons. They're also not manufacturing facilities to produce chemical weapons."

The Australia Group, established in 1984, is an informal forum of 33 countries including the ROK to prevent the production and spread of chemical weapons.

Speculation has grown that the items are probably clothing to protect against chemical weapons, but the ROKG has not officially confirmed or denied this.

A government source in Seoul said, "The (South) Korea Coast Guard ordered the freighter, which left the port of Busan and sailed through waters near Geoje Island, to return (to the port) and (then) seized the containers."

The 90,000-ton freighter left the Chinese port of Tianjin Sept. 19 and arrived in Busan two days later. It then left Busan Sept. 22 and returned to the port late at night on the same day. The freighter left Busan's New Port again on Sept. 23 and is currently lying at anchor in Singapore.

ROK intelligence and the foreign and unification ministries said they cannot confirm anything.

North Korea gave no official response to the incident.

The Associated Press quoted the Dong-a report, saying that, at the request of intelligence authorities, the (South) Korea Coast Guard seized containers shipped on a Panama freighter at Busan's New Port.

AFP also said, "Dong-a Ilbo newspaper said the search could be part

of an attempt to enforce U.N. sanctions (Resolution 1874)."

The resolution includes financial sanctions designed to choke off revenue for Pyongyang's weapons program and tougher inspections of cargo suspected of containing banned weapons-related items.

(We have compared the English version on the website with the Korean version, and added the first two paragraphs and deleted some parts to make them identical.)

PATH OF SUCCESSION IN NORTH GROWING CLEARER BY THE DAY
(JoongAng Daily, October 6, 2009)

By Reporter Lee Young-jong

Kim Jong-il's third son, with name clarified, gets high position in party

Leader Kim Jong-il's third son and heir apparent, Kim Jong-eun, is working at a deputy director level at the ruling Workers' Party, according to data obtained by the JoongAng Ilbo yesterday.

The information was included in an ROKG report submitted to Grand National Party lawmaker Yoon Sang-hyun, who is also a member of a National Assembly standing committee on foreign affairs and unification. Yoon received the information on the condition that it would not be discussed publicly during the ongoing National Assembly audits of ROKG agencies.

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The name of the son had previously been spelled "Kim Jong-un," but ROK intelligence recently confirmed the correct spelling to be "Kim Jong-eun. Late last month, a photograph of a North Korean propaganda poster showed the name spelled as Kim Jong-eun in Korean.

The report yesterday also claimed that Kim Jong-eun's formal succession will take place between 2010 and 2012. According to the report, the junior Kim was born in 1984 and graduated from Kim Il Sung National War College, named after the former North Korean leader and father of Kim Jong-il. The college, located in Pyongyang, is North Korea's top military academy that churns out leading military officers. According to the ROK file, Kim Jong-eun didn't attend the military school on a full-time basis, but instead received separate one-on-one tutorials from professors and military officials who visited him. The report noted that the ROK intelligence community has not been able to confirm some media reports that Kim Jong-eun also graduated from Kim Il Sung University. According to the government report, Kim Jong-eun has not served in the North Korean military. Kim Jong-il also didn't serve in the armed forces.

Little is known about Kim Jong-eun, who is the second son of Kim Jong-il's third wife, Ko Yong-hee. There have been conflicting reports about Jong-eun's academic career, with some arguing that he had attended the International School of Berne in Switzerland under a pseudonym and others charging that Jong-eun has never been outside North Korea.

Kenji Fujimoto, former personal chef of Kim Jong-il, offered some details about the s-e-c-r-e-t-i-v-e Kim family's background in his memoir published in 2003. In a Time magazine article dated June 1 this year, Fujimoto called Jong-eun "a chip off the old block, a spitting image of his father in terms of face, body shape and personality."

The article quoted Fujimoto's book as saying Jong-eun is the favorite of Kim Jong-il because of his "take-charge" personality. The succession question was raised last year when Kim Jong-il reportedly suffered a stroke. Experts have also linked the North's nuclear test in May to succession, believing the test was an attempt to prove the regime's unity with the powerful military. In North Korea, backing from the military is considered a must for transfer of leadership.

The National Intelligence Service notified lawmakers on a National Assembly intelligence committee that North Koreans have begun making pledges of loyalty to Kim Jong-eun.

PYONGYANG AGAIN SIGNALS WILLINGNESS FOR NEW TALKS
(JoongAng Daily, October 6, 2009)

By Reporter Yoo Jee-ho

While ROK defense officials said yesterday they have detected movement at a North Korean nuclear test site, North Korea has once again told China that it is open to bilateral and multilateral talks to deal with its nuclear program.

North Korean Premier Kim Young-il told China's Premier Wen Jiabao Sunday of the North's "will to realize the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the behest of President Kim Il Sung, through bilateral and multilateral dialogues," according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency early yesterday. The station referred to the late former leader and father of current leader Kim Jong-il. China's state television carried a similar report late Sunday night.

The station referred to the late former leader and father of current leader Kim Jong-il. China's state television carried a similar report late Sunday night.

But the Defense Ministry said in a closed-door report to the National Assembly yesterday that it has detected personnel and

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equipment movement in and out of the Punggye-ri nuclear base in North Hamgyong Province, North Korea, but that there are no indications of a third nuclear test.

Wen began a three-day visit to Pyongyang on Sunday. Officially, he is there to observe the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and North Korea, although analysts have speculated that the nuclear issue was almost certain to be raised at some point during his rare trip to the North Korean capital. Wen was expected to have talks with Kim Jong-il later yesterday. The KCNA also said Kim Jong-il blamed the United States for the nuclear standoff on the Korean Peninsula. The North has argued that it must retain its nuclear capabilities as deterrence to the U.S. nuclear threats.

But the North Korean premier's comments regarding the nuclear talks serve as the latest indication that Pyongyang is ready to return to the Six-Party denuclearization talks, which have been on hold since December last year. The position is similar to (the position that) Kim Jong-il expressed to Dai Bingguo, a special envoy for President Hu Jintao, in September during Dai's visit to Pyongyang.

STEPHENS